



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

September 21, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *tm*  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – ABBY'S  
ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT CENTER, BAY STREET,  
THUNDERBIRD DRIVE AND VANDENBERG DRIVE GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Abby's Adolescent Development Center Bay Street, Thunderbird Drive and Vandenberg Drive Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Abby's Adolescent Development, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Abby's Adolescent Development Center Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for girls ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Bay Street Group Home was providing services for two Los Angeles County children, two Riverside County children, and two San Bernardino County children. Thunderbird Drive Group Home was providing services for three Los Angeles County children, and one Riverside County child. Vandenberg Drive Group Home was providing services for three Los Angeles County children, two San Bernardino County children, and one Riverside County child.

Abby's Adolescent Development Center Group Homes are located in Riverside County.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

### **Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Each Group Home has deficient areas that need to be addressed.

All three Group Homes need to include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans; develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long-term goals; maintain documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services; provide children with age appropriate and accessible board games and recreational equipment; provide all children with the required minimum weekly allowance; and encourage and assist children in maintaining photo albums/life books.

Bay Street Group Home needs to repair the broken kitchen cabinet doors.

Thunderbird Drive Group Home needs to refinish the kitchen cabinets.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:ec  
[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Farid Farag, Executive Director, Abby's Adolescent Development Group Homes  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Abby's Adolescent Development Center, Incorporated**  
**Bay Street**  
**23277 Bay Street**  
**Moreno Valley, California 92553**  
**Phone: 951-656-2375**  
**License Number: 336402335**  
**Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Bay Street Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the kitchen cabinet doors are broken.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home provides a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available. However, the Group Home does not maintain age appropriate and accessible board games and recreational equipment.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

**1. Abby's Adolescent Development Group Home management:**

- a. Repair or replace the broken kitchen cabinet doors.**
- b. Provide children with age appropriate and accessible board games and recreational equipment.**

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

#### **Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development and implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long-term goals.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendations**

#### **2. Abby's Adolescent Development Center Group Home management:**

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include short term and long term goals for all children.
- c. Maintain documentation in the case files that show children are receiving treatment services.

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

#### **Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

#### **Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

#### **Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home is providing children with less than the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**3. Abby's Adolescent Development Group Home management:**

- a. Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.
- b. Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.



**Abby's Adolescent Development Center, Incorporated**  
**Thunderbird Drive**  
**13695 Thunderbird Drive**  
**Moreno Valley, California 92553**  
**Phone: 951-653-8686**  
**License Number: 336402335**  
**Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Thunderbird Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the kitchen cabinets are worn.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home provides a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available. However, the Group Home does not maintain age appropriate and accessible board games and recreational equipment.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

**1. Abby's Adolescent Development Group Home management:**

- a. Refinish the kitchen cabinets.**
- b. Provide children with age appropriate and accessible board games and recreational equipment.**

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

#### **Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development and implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long-term goals.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendations**

#### **2. Abby's Adolescent Development Center Group Home management:**

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include short term and long term goals for all children.
- c. Maintain documentation in the case files that show children are receiving treatment services.

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

#### **Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

There are no recommendations for this section.

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

There are no recommendations for this section.

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

There are no recommendations for this section.

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

#### **Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

#### **Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home is providing children with less than the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**3. Abby's Adolescent Development Group Home management.**

- a. Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**
- b. Encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

**Abby's Adolescent Development Center, Incorporated**  
**Vandenberg Drive**  
**24510 Vandenberg Drive**  
**Moreno Valley, California 92551**  
**Phone: 951-924-6393**  
**License Number: 336405655**  
**Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Vandenberg Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home provides a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available. However, the Group Home does not maintain age appropriate and accessible board games and recreational equipment.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendation**

- 1. Abby's Adolescent Development Group Home management provide children with age appropriate and accessible board games and recreational equipment.**

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current; however, the treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development and implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long-term goals.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

**Recommendations****2. Abby's Adolescent Development Center Group Home management:**

- a. Include the treatment team and input from the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- b. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include short term and long term goals for all children.
- c. Maintain documentation in the case files that show children are receiving treatment services.

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size for interviews: Two****Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

##### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

##### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

##### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

##### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

##### **Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

##### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

##### **Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**



**Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size for interviews: Two****Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home is providing children with less than the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

3. Abby's Adolescent Development Group Home management.
  - a. Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.
  - b. Encourage and assist all children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Abby's Adolescent Development Center, Inc.

13800 Heacock St.

Suite 116 C

Moreno Valley, Ca. 92553

Tel: (951)656-6609 Fax: (951)656-6413

Corrective Action Plans

Bay Street Group Home (Facility I)

I) Facility and Environment

Recommendations

A. Repair or replace the broken cabinet doors.

Kitchen cabinet doors were replaced at the time of second visit and verified.

B. Provide Children with a sufficient amount of age appropriate and accessible board games and recreational equipment.

We had some games including computer games however we purchased additional suitable board games for their ages. All old and new games are accessible to all clients. Further, we purchased recreational equipment for indoor exercise. All games and equipment will be maintained and updated.

II) Program Services

Recommendations

A. Include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the NSP's.

In order to meet this recommendation, we had to add a new forms, please see attached you will find that we included treatment team and the client.

B. Develop comprehensive NSPs that include an accurate history of the child and short and long term-term goals.

See attached modified NSP Form.

C. Document in case files that children are receiving treatment services.

All clients in our program are receiving treatment services however; we will be documenting these services in confidential file.

III) Educational and Emancipation Services

There are no recommendations for this action.

IV) Recreation and Activities

There are no recommendations for this action.

V) Psychotropic Medication

There are no recommendations for this action.

VI) Personal Rights

There are no recommendations for this action.

VII) Clothing and Allowance

Recommendations

- A. Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The minimum weekly allowance that Los Angeles County requires is different than other counties however, we had to change our level structure in order to meet your allowance requirements. Copy is attached for your review.

- B. Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

We have complied with this recommendation and purchased photo albums for all three facilities. Further, staff was instructed to help clients develop their pictures & maintain their photo albums.

## **Thunderbird Drive Group Home (Facility II)**

### **I) Facility and Environment Recommendations**

#### **A. Refinish the kitchen cabinet doors.**

Kitchen cabinet doors were refinished.

#### **B. Provide Children with a sufficient amount of age appropriate and accessible board games and recreational equipment.**

We had some games including computer games however we purchased additional suitable board games for their ages. All old and new games are accessible to all clients. Further, we purchased recreational equipment for indoor exercise. All games and equipment will be maintained and updated.

### **II) Program Services**

#### **Recommendations**

#### **A. Include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the NSP's.**

In order to meet this recommendation, we had to add a new forms, please see attached you will find that we included treatment team and the client.

#### **B. Develop comprehensive NSPs that include an accurate history of the child and short and long term-term goals.**

See attached Form

#### **C. Document in case files that children are receiving treatment services.**

All clients in our program are receiving treatment services however, will be documenting these services in confidential file.

### **III) Educational and Emancipation Services**

There are no recommendations for this action.

### **IV) Recreation and Activities**

There are no recommendations for this action.

V) Psychotropic Medication  
There are no recommendations for this action.

VI) Personal Rights  
There are no recommendations for this action.

VII) Clothing and Allowance  
Recommendations

A. Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The minimum weekly allowance that Los Angeles County requires is different than other counties however, we had to change our level structure in order to meet your allowance requirements. Copy is attached for your review.

B. Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

We have complied with this recommendation and purchased photo albums for all three facilities. Further, staff was instructed to help clients develop their pictures & maintain their photo albums.

## Vandenberg Drive Group Home (Facility IID)

### **I. Facility and Environment**

#### Recommendation

- A. Provide Children with a sufficient amount of age appropriate and accessible board games and recreational equipment.

We had some games including computer games however we purchased additional suitable board games for their ages. All old and new games are accessible to all clients. Further, we purchased recreational equipment for indoor exercise. All games and equipment will be maintained and updated.

### **II. Program Services**

#### Recommendation

- A. Include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the NSP's.

In order to meet this recommendation, we had to add a new forms, please see attached you will find that we included treatment team and the client.

- B. Develop comprehensive NSPs that include an accurate history of the child and short and long term-term goals.

See attached Form

- C. Document in case files that children are receiving treatment services.

All clients in our program are receiving treatment services however, will be documenting these services in confidential file.

#### **b. Educational and Emancipation Services**

There are no recommendations for this action.

#### **c. Recreation and Activities**

There are no recommendations for this action.

#### **d. Psychotropic Medication**

There are no recommendations for this action.

e. Personal Rights

There are no recommendations for this action.

f. Clothing and Allowance

Recommendation

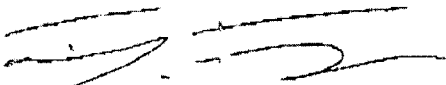
A. Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The minimum weekly allowance that Los Angeles County requires is different than other counties however, we had to change our level structure in order to meet your allowance requirements. Copy is attached for your review.

B. Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

We have complied with this recommendation and purchased photo albums for all three facilities please see attached receipt. In addition, staff instructed to help clients develop their pictures & maintain their photo album.

In Conclusion this report, I would like to thank the auditor for all her comments which we considered and reviewed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Farag  
Director  
951-830-6999

Date: 4/20/2006